



JANUARY 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH HLAVINKA FELLOW AT THE 2016 ANNUAL CEFT MEETING

CEFT

The Czech Educational Foundation of Texas Newsletter

Winter 2017 Edition

This edition was created by Lynette Urbanovsky, CEFT English Publicity Officer. Reviewed by: John Sevcik and Diane Sulak Wilson.

From the President

Greeting to Everyone for a Blessed 2017!

By: **Woody Smith, CEFT President**

All of us at the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas (CEFT) hope you and your family had a very happy holiday season. We also want to thank you for your support of CEFT. Your continued support is very important in helping ensure the success of this organization and the three endowment programs that it has established. We urge you to continue to support CEFT by renewing your annual membership and by encouraging others to join.

CEFT also encourages you to support the endowment(s) of your choice with any additional contributions that you can: the Texas Chair of Czech Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, the CEFT William J. Hlavinka Czech Fellowship at Texas A&M University in College Station, and the CEFT Frank J. and Hermine Kostohryz Residency in Czech Music at the University of North Texas in Denton. Feel free to contact one of the Program Advisors for each of the programs for

more information about how to contribute advisors' names are listed at the end of this newsletter. Also included in this newsletter is a membership/memorial contribution/donation form.



Picture of Diane Wilson, CEFT VP Membership/Public Relations; Woody Smith, CEFT President; and Paul Hlavinka, CEFT Secretary and Legal Advisor at the 2016 Annual CEFT Membership Meeting.

Throughout this newsletter, you will enjoy reading about the three CEFT endowments as well as other interesting information. Finally, CEFT is extremely pleased that the endowment at UNT, College of Music will once again bring the Czech dechovka band, Stříbrňanka, to Texas later this year (thanks to the hard work of Dr. Thomas Sovik). Check CEFT's website for updated information

and schedules, and plan to attend a performance near you.

We look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

Woody Smith
President, CEFT

Update from the University of North Texas Program

By: Ray Lenart, Program Advisor

There has been extensive planning and coordination at UNT of major music activities and events for 2017 and 2018 involving the CEFT Foundation at UNT.

In April 2017, UNT in conjunction with CEFT, will again bring Stříbrňanka, a 9-piece dechovka, from the Czech Republic for a tour of Texas. Tour information will be available on the CEFT website beginning in February. Many of the venues have agreed to contribute something back to the UNT-CEFT endowment, with \$700-800 being mentioned by several venues.



Stříbrňanka at their 2012 performance in Caldwell, Texas.

Plans are already underway for UNT's 3rd international festival of Czech music, tentatively scheduled for October 2018 to coincide with the 100 year anniversary of Czechoslovakia. One of the keynote works of the festival is expected to be the concerto for two pianos and orchestra by Jan Ladislav Dussek (the Bohemian Beethoven); we also hope to have Sara Medkova (who performed the Hummel concert with our orchestra at our last festival play one piano part and a member of the UNT piano faculty play the second piano.

UNT is currently pursuing an agreement that would form a 3-way consortium consisting of UNT, the Janacek Academy of Music in Brno, and Palacky University in Olomouc. This would expand our ability to do even more for the Texas Czechs by bringing in a third group to support our activities.

The new Dean of the College of Music at UNT, John Richmond will be participating in portions of the Stříbrňanka tour and is looking forward to meeting Czechs throughout Texas. He was previously at the University of Nebraska and is familiar with the Czech culture.



John Richmond, the new Dean of Music for the College of Music at the University of North Texas.

University of Texas Czech Chair Report

By: Dr. Mary Neubuger and James Sassin

The Texas Chair in Czech Studies for the fiscal year 2015-2016 continues to supply the financial resources necessary to expand and develop the Czech Studies program at UT Austin.

The primary and most important use of the Czech Studies endowment funds for Czech language instruction is to support two full-time lecturers, Dr. Christian Hilchey and Dr. Mark Hopkins. Drs. Hilchey and Hopkins taught Czech language at the first through fourth year level, as well as courses on Czech culture through the Slavic department. The Texas Chair in Czech Studies also funds research, technology (such as equipment for creating online Czech course materials), and curriculum development for these faculty member, as well as student field trips and the weekly Czech conversation table (a Czech language practice gathering). These are all key additions to the offerings of the Slavic and Eurasian Studies.

In addition, endowment funds supported a variety of Czech-related events and projects on and off campus in 2015-2016, many of which will have a lasting legacy. With Czech Chair funds, our department (the Slavic department) was able to contribute to a film project on the Czechs of West, Texas, and make considerable progress on creating the first online open sourced textbook for teaching Czech language. Dr. Hilchey took students of his Texas Czech class on a field trip to La Grange, Texas for a more in-depth look at the Czech cultural heritage in our state. The UT Austin Slavic department hosted a piano concert of Czech composers Leos Janacek, Hulan Bedrich Smetana and Josef Suk, and co-sponsored the "Czech That Film Festival." Endowment funds also supported a national competitive search for a new Czech language

instructor, Dr. Meghan Forbes, who replaced Dr. Hopkins in Fall 2016. These events and programs have continued to raise the profile of the UT Czech program and provided campus and community exposure to Czech culture and contemporary issues.

The Texas Chair in Czech Studies also supported significant student study and research efforts. Quinn O'Dowd, a graduate student received a research/language fellowship and traveled to the Czech Republic to study the perspectives of Czech political parties to the European Union. The endowment also funded a semester abroad in Prague for Mary Cernoch (a student with deep Czech heritage from Fayette County), and a professional development award for doctoral student in Government Simon Miles to present his research findings on Cold War politics, as well as a summer language scholarship for undergraduate John Grewell to study Czech language overseas.

Lastly, as we move into the new year, CEFT is working closely with the Czech Chair in increasing real-time exposure of language classes, literature and/or research projects (like linking the Prague Spring Archives), with the Slavic department's and CEFT's website.



Monica Cavanaugh (Miss Texas Czech-Slovak) and Libby Hollan were both students of Czech Language in the UT program during 2016.

Dr. Mark Hopkin's temporary replacement is Meghan Forbes from the University of Michigan. She will be teaching both 1st and 3rd year Czech classes. Final appointment is pending.

Czech Classes in the fall included:

- 27 Students in Czech Culture course "Texas Czechs: Cowboys & Kolaches"
- 6 Students in Czech I in the past year, 7 in Czech II and 3 Czech III
- All 6 Czech I Students will be in Czech II next fall.
- Next year Czech IV will be offered for the first time in a while to 3 students.
- Online RealityCzech.org is in beta format for now; it has 380 pages so far and is completely interactive.



Report on the Texas A&M Hlavinka Fellowship By: Lynette Urbanovsky, CEFT English Publicity Officer

The more that I attend and take part in our Czech Language classes, the more I begin to realize the priceless value that the Texas A&M Hlavinka Scholarship has brought to the Brazos Valley community. By having a Master's student from the Czech Republic come and teach the Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society (BVCHS) Czech Language Class as part of their scholarship, we are not just having an amazing teacher, but our community is able to have priceless cultural experience.



Milan Hanuš, Jan Dufek, Pavla Plachtová (Behind), Amanda Phillips (In the front), Shibiya Sabu, Jan Benes (CEFT Hlavinka Fellow – Standing Behind), Lynette Urbanovsky (CEFT English Publicity Officer) and Jo Ann Zaeske (CEFT Member) at the Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society Christmas Party.

Thanks to the A&M Hlavinka Fellow, Jan Benes' efforts, not only do we have a first-class teacher, but he has worked at getting to know, and reaching out to Aggies from the Czech Republic in our community that are either attending or researching at Texas A&M University. The local Czechs attending Texas A&M are not only caring, but they show their selfless passion for their culture by coming regularly to our Czech language classes. They participate and offer the chance for our language students to be able to hear firsthand the different dialects from the different regions in the Czech Republic. At every Czech language class not only do we have Jan Benes, but we have Pavla Plachtová, Josef "Jožin" Zapletal and Milan Hanuš. When Jan Dufek can attend, he also comes to our events. I always feel like the Czech students are a part of my family while they are here, but they also make you feel like you are part of theirs.



Josef "Jožin" Zapletal assisting Bruno Marks and Barbara Tut during Czech class.

Pavla Plachtová assisting Barbara Jancik, Rose Autrey and Lynette Urbanovsky (CEFT) during Czech class.

Jan takes the time to invite some of us into his home to watch American Football games on Sundays, or to a local pub for "pivo" (beer). If you did not know, Jan is a huge American football fan and knows probably more about the background of the game and football trivia than most Americans do. Pavla has also shared Czech treats shipped over from her loving sister, straight from the Czech Republic. All of them take time to attend our local events such as the Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society Christmas party. Their participation shows true heart, as they are attending selflessly to take part and make a

difference in the local Czech community. As you will see later in our newsletter, Pavla has taken the time to share with us an amazing article about Czech Christmas customs and Jan about his recent academic and Czech Language class teaching experiences.



Monica Cavanaugh, Jan Benes, Jan Dufek and Pavla Plachtová walking into the BVCHS Christmas parties and picking up their caroling sheets to sing along with the Czech Christmas carols.

I would like to take a moment to update you on our recent Texas A&M Hlavinka Fellowship happenings:

Jan has continued to do a wonderful job teaching the language course. Jan has the other Czech students participate in the Czech class by speaking so that the class can hear the pronunciations on some of the more difficult Czech words. He has also done a wonderful job giving the students a history brief at the end of each lesson. Recently, for example, Jan shared about the history behind the Hussites. For our last class he had Tomáš Panský come in and help lead the class in Czech Christmas carols. Not only did we sing the carols, but we also worked on translating them! The highlight to our last class for the fall semester was celebrating Jan's 31st Birthday.



Jan Benes was surprised with a football themed birthday cake for his 31st birthday during the Czech Language class.

The Christmas class ended and I also held my now traditional hosting of the Czech students and some of our class mates for a Christmas meal in Czech style. We started the night with traditional Czech garlic soup. For the main course I always use the cook book that Petr Anténe, a former Hlavinka Fellow, gave me to cook knedlíčky by. The knedlíčky was paired with a beef and mushroom gravy, or they could top the knedlíčky with a tomato gravy. For side dishes we had carrots made using a Czech recipe, and Jo Ann Zaeske made some delicious green beans! The meal was topped off with desserts of homemade koláče, vánočka (Czech Christmas Bread), and Plum cake. Jan Dufek and Pavla taught those in attendance how to make traditional mulled wine like you would find at one of the Christmas markets in the Czech Republic. The night of course could not end without a shot of Slivovitz.

After Pavla and I rang in the New Year we anxiously awaited for everyone to come back to College Station.



Pavla Plachtová joined a couple of the CEFT Board of Directors, Ben Traclek and Lynette Urbanovsky, at the Caldwell Brethren Church Christmas Hayride around town. Also pictured is a New Year's Eve picture of Pavla and Lynette.

Jan started our Spring Czech semester off to a show-stopping start on Monday, January 16, 2017. We started the class off by reviewing over our Czech numbers, and vocabulary separated by gender neutral words, feminine words and masculine words. For the end of the class Jan surprised everyone by bringing in a projector and showing two short videos behind the bees wax dyeing and straw decorating of the traditional Czech Easter Eggs. Jan shared that he and his parents visited the two ladies featured in the educational videos. Jan went above and beyond to make each of his students feel special by bringing everyone their choice of a bees wax dyed or straw decorated traditional Czech Easter egg. Not only do the students have something to always remember and cherish the lesson by, but they also have something to remind them of Jan.



A Czech Christmas party in Texas.

During the break as Jan, Milan, Jan and Josef returned to their homes in the Czech Republic, Pavla stayed to take part in the Texas Christmas festivities for her first time. Pavla joined my family for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day festivities. She also went on her first Texas Christmas hayride with my church, Caldwell Brethren. Rose Autrey, Amanda Phillips, and Ben Traclek, CEFT Board of Director, who also attend our Czech language class joined us for the hayride, as well as some of the Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society Members, John and Amy Moravec with their family.



Some of the traditional bees wax dyed and straw decorated Czech Easter eggs that Jan brought for the Czech Language class as a present.

As Jan has now entered into his final semester at Texas A&M, we invite you to come and join our amazing Czech class.

Classes are each Monday night at 7:00pm. The location is at the St. Joseph Parish Activity Center located at 600 E 26th Street, Bryan, Texas 77802. We are all very proud of Jan, Jan, Josef, Milan and Pavla for their continued contributions to make our class a priceless cultural experience. We are all very proud of Jan especially for doing a great job at Texas A&M University, and are excited to see him get his Masters in English in May. For more information you can email myself at lurbanovsky@gmail.com or Dr. Clinton Machann at c-machann@tamu.edu. May you all have a Blessed 2017!



Nazdraví!

Update from the CEFT Texas A&M Hlavinka Fellow

**By: Jan Benes, CEFT Texas A&M
Hlavinka Fellow**

Spring 2017 is my last semester as the William J. Hlavinka fellow at Texas A&M. And yet it was only recently that I finally saw Reveille, the A&M mascot, in person. I was walking across campus on a sunny morning at the beginning of the semester, thinking about Aggieland and the opportunity that I had been given in coming, studying, and teaching in College Station and Bryan, when I chanced upon two members of the Corps of Cadets with Reveille IX on a leash, dutifully sitting down so that Aggies rushing to their classes could snap a quick photo with the university's symbol. Having just passed the Albritton Bell Tower, Kyle Field, and the Academic Building – with students bustling quietly

to and from classes – it all came together. I am nearing the end of my two amazing years in Texas.

I am devoting this semester to finishing my M.A. thesis on African American aviation prior to World War II and to acquiring a certificate in Africana Studies, which should complement my degree from A&M. While the degree itself is invaluable, the certificate, too, can help distinguish me from job applicants in academia in the future. In this, the William J. Hlavinka Fellowship, for which I am sincerely grateful, has been even more beneficial than I ever imagined. Even though the fellowship and my sojourn is supposed to end in May 2017, I hope to stay in College Station for a few more months in order to start work on my dissertation and reap the benefits of being an Aggie.

This semester is also the last in terms of me teaching the Czech language class offered by the Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society. Thanks to hard work by Lynette Urbanovsky and Jo Ann Zaeske in propagating the class, the number of students has been gradually growing throughout my stay and, more importantly, we seem to have established a core of students, who have now made considerable progress in their Czech. Owing to this development, the students seem to have become more comfortable when faced with translation tasks, as well as Czech movies and songs provided by me or Tomas Pansky, our second Czech language teacher. I hope to make further progress with the class this spring so that my successor from Palacky University in Olomouc has something to build on.

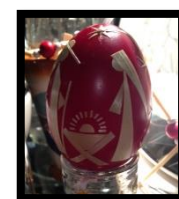
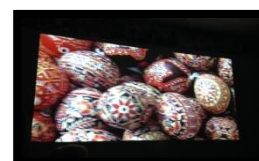
To be honest, I never thought that I would and could ever teach my own language. However, as the saying goes – “as you teach, you learn” – I have now found a new appreciation for my own language and culture. On a visit to Brno, Czech Republic over the winter break, I searched the city up and down, looking for Czech or Moravian souvenirs to bring to my students. Yet, I could hardly find anything that would proudly represent my homeland. When one walks or drives

around College Station – or anywhere in Texas, for that matter – Texas and university flags are everywhere. So are stickers, stamps, t-shirts, hoodies, and other paraphernalia symbolizing one’s identity and pride in being a Texan. The same, of course, goes for displays of Czech heritage here in Texas. But you will seldom find similar attitudes, products, and displays of pride in the Czech Republic (although I did enjoy a wonderful Moravian pear kolach the very first morning back home and was extremely proud of it). Unlike Joseph Zapletal, a member of the group of native-Czech students at A&M, I do not own a Czech national soccer team jersey and thus cannot show people that I am a proud Czech. Having spent two years among Texas Czechs who take every opportunity to highlight their ancestors and heritage, I am now inspired to think of my own way of productively displaying my national identity (for starters, I could purchase one of those red soccer jerseys that Joseph likes so much).

In the end, my parents and I were able to find the perfect gift – I hope – for Czech Texans. Dyed and ornamented Easter eggs (“kraslice” in Czech). The tradition of dyeing and decorating eggs for Easter and other events and celebrations is widespread around the Czech Republic, but some techniques originated from and are still practiced in the Southeast Moravian region, where many Czech Texans’ ancestors came from. We visited two ladies in Uherske Hradiste, approximately 18 miles from Zlin, – Mrs. Zdenka Rajsiglova and Marie Vlckova – who have been working on their craft for over three decades (you can see their beautiful “kraslice” @ www.tradicnivyrobek.cz). Mrs. Rajsiglova is an expert in decorating eggs with pieces of straw, while Mrs. Vlckova specializes in tie-dyed or batika eggs. While most of the eggs have been or will be distributed among the students of our Czech class in Bryan, my parents and I would like to donate the remaining eggs – which represent the traditions and patterns of the region where many Czech Texans came from – to CEFT and BVCHS

to use for the silent auctions benefiting the William J. Hlavinka Fellowship. Bringing small, but beautiful pieces of the homeland to Texas is the least I can do to repay for the opportunity awarded to me by the CEFT and for the kindness of the Texans who have spent the past eighteen months helping and supporting me.

Pictures below are from Jan’s Presentation over the traditionally decorated Czech Easter eggs. Pictured first you will find images from the projected presentation, Jan showing the eggs, and a couple close up photos of the decorated eggs.



Czech Christmas Traditions: Baby Jesus, Carp and Superstitions

By: Pavla Plachtová, Fulbright Fellow currently at Texas A&M University, from Masaryk University in Brno. Pavla is from Štramberk, in the Czech Republic

December 24 is Adam and Eva's name day and also called Štědrý den. In the Czech Republic the main celebrations are on Christmas Eve. Štědrý den literally translates as "generous day", probably for the wealth of food that has traditionally been served for Christmas dinner and fed to household and farm animals. People spend the day with their family, and in the evening enjoy their traditional Christmas dinner and give presents.

Traditionally, Christmas dinner should be served after the first star has come out, and consists of fish or mushroom soup and carp with potato salad. Traditional Christmas bread called vánočka used to be a part of the Christmas dinner in the past but today it has largely lost its Christmas connotation and is available year-round.

After dinner, families usually sing Christmas carols by the Christmas tree, which is all lit up and surrounded by presents. Czech children believe that Christmas presents are brought during the Christmas Eve dinner by Baby Jesus (Ježíšek) who comes into the room through the window to leave the presents under the tree. The presents are normally opened right after dinner.

Unlike Santa Claus, Baby Jesus is a rather abstract figure with no particular physical image attached to him, and no one knows where he lives. But some said he reside high in the mountains, in the town of Boží Dar (on the Czech-Germany border near Karlovy Vary), where a post office accepts and stamps wish-list letters addressed to Ježíšek.

Once the presents are open, the evening is spent watching traditional children's stories on television, with traditions and fortune-telling superstitions. Also there is always a good supply of home-made pastries and Christmas cookies to enjoy throughout the evening.

Some people end Christmas Eve by attending the Midnight Mass (půlnoční mše) at a local church. It usually starts at midnight but some churches hold it earlier, such as at 10 pm. There can also be a Christmas Mass for children in the afternoon.

December 25 and 26 are also referred to as the First and Second Christmas Holidays, or the Christmas Feast (Boží hod vánoční) and St. Stephen's Day (Svatý Štěpán). In the past, St. Stephen's day was a day of visiting homes and singing Christmas Carols, but this has ceased. Today, most families stay home or visit homes of relatives.

Czech Christmas Customs and Superstitions

Like everyone else, Czech people have always looked for ways how to foretell the future and Christmas has always been the perfect time for fortune-telling. Some traditions are to have the answer to questions about our health, love, wealth and luck.

Foretelling the Future

The foretelling of the future and predicting the well-being of the family in the coming year is connected with many popular Christmas customs some of which are still practiced today.

Flying Golden Pig

A lot of people during the December 24th resist the smell of Christmas cookies and fridge packed with food because for the whole day on Christmas Eve until the dinner time Czech people are supposed to fast in order to see the vision of the "golden pig" on the wall, which is a sign of a good luck. Although it was never seen before.

The Floating of Walnut Shells

Little boats are made out of empty walnut shells and each family member places a little burning candle into a shell. Everyone's shells are then floated on a bowl of water. If the shell makes it across the bowl, its owner will live a long and healthy life. If your boat sails away from the edge, it means you can expect to do some travelling in the next year. A shell that sinks brings bad luck to its owner.

Reading Health from Apple

After Christmas dinner, every person present at the table cuts an apple in half (crosswise, from the stem down). Both halves are shown to everyone around the table. When the seeds inside form a five-pointed star, the one who cut the apple will remain healthy. But a four-pointed cross is a bad omen and means that the person will fall ill or die within a year. The same could be done with walnuts – if the inside nut is healthy and fresh, it's a good sign. If it's black, guess what could happen to the person in coming year.

The Pouring of Lead

People used to pour the hot molten lead into the water and according to the resulting shape they would predict events for the coming year. In the beginning of the 20th century this tradition used to be very popular, however, due to two world wars there was a shortage of this material, so this custom has been almost forgotten.

Foretelling Marriage

Unmarried girls, who long for a wedding, follow during the Christmas Eve several customs, which help them find out if they will get married in the upcoming year. There are the two most common traditions.

Cherry Tree Twigs (Barborky)

On Saint Barbara day (December 4th), an unmarried girl is supposed to cut a twig off of a cherry tree and put it in water. If the twig blooms by Christmas Eve, the girl will marry within a year. A little different version is cut more twigs of fruit trees and named each twig with

boy's name, then that which flowered first would symbolize their future groom.

The Throwing of the Shoe

The chances of getting married bore other superstitions like the girls throw their shoe over her shoulder and towards the door. If the shoe lands with the toe pointing towards the door, the girl will marry within a year. When the shoe points in the opposite direction, the girl will remain single for at least another year.

Mistletoe

Also, all women should get a kiss under the mistletoe hanging above the table to have love guaranteed throughout the coming year - as we say in the Czech Republic, the girl will not dry! But be careful, like love, the mistletoe cannot be bought; it must be given to you.

Foretelling Money and Wealth

Fish Scales

Fish scales should be placed under Christmas dinner plates or under the tablecloth to bring wealth to the house. It is also customary to keep one or two carp scales in your wallet all year; because it is believed it ensures that there will always be money in it throughout the year.

A little different Santa

St. Nicholas (Svatý Mikuláš) traditionally arrives during the evening of the 5th December. He is dressed like a bishop in white clothing, rather than in the red Santa suit. He comes accompanied by one or more angels and one or more devils and asks the children if they've been good all year and also asks them to sing a song or recite a poem, and gives them a basket of presents, often containing chocolate and fruit. If they have been naughty, the devil might give them a lump of coal. Like in the Netherlands and some other European countries, St Nicholas' Day is a very separate holiday than Christmas.

Carp in the bathtub, for dinner and even in the wallet

Carp made its way onto Czech Christmas tables not before 19th century, but it has been an indispensable symbol of Czech Christmas ever since. Before the arrival of carp, Czechs used to serve another traditional meal called "kuba", which is made of hulled grain, dried mushrooms, garlic, barley, onions and spices.

A few days prior to Christmas, carp is sold directly in the centers of Czech cities and towns, so do not be surprised if you come across large tubs full of carp on your walk through Prague that you will not see any other time of the year. They come mostly from traditional fish farming regions, such as the well-known area around the town of Třeboň. Some families keep their carp in the bathtub for several days as a temporary pet for their children before serving it as Christmas dinner. Some families buy a carp although they do not eat it – they keep it in the bathtub for a couple of days like a Christmas pet and then let it go in a nearby river or pond.

**Text was prepared using these sources: myczechrepublic.com, czechtourism.com, extravaganzafreetour.com, Google pictures and Plachtova's home photo archive.*



Stamp of the Boží dar's post office (Ježiškova pošta v Božím daru) has different design every year.



Traditional Christmas dinner – fried carp and potato salad



Traditionally decorated Christmas gingerbread cannot miss in any household



St. Nicholas (Svatý Mikuláš) accompanied with angel and devil asks children if they were good all year



Carp are sold on the squares and in front of shopping centers from the large vats



Carp in the bathtub is popular Christmas pet



Floating little boats is tradition foretelling the future



Pavla Plachtova with her family in front of the Christmas tree

JEAN'S CZECH GLASS COLLECTION

By: Jean Blaha Davis

I discovered Czech glass quite by accident in the late 1970's. At that time I was collecting many things that I liked such as embroidery items, old pots and pans, quilt tops, etc. I was at the Canton Flea Market which has been held in Canton Texas for many, many years. The flea market was started by local residents who were in need of some new items, and would trade used with others in exchange. In the last 1970's the Canton flea market was located around the town square.

One Saturday late in the afternoon as I was leaving the market, I came across some very pretty china dishes which had flowers as the design on the plates. My mother would have liked anything with flowers and that is what attracted me. Then, I turned over the plate and saw that it was made in Czechoslovakia and since I was Czech I thought, I need to buy the dishes and try to complete the set. That started a lifetime journey of collecting many items mainly Czech Pottery and Czech blown cased glass. To this day I still have not found the pieces to complete that set of China.

In the early 1980's, I found and purchased a book entitled "Made in Czechoslovakia" by Ruth A. Forsythe in a shopping mall in Colorado. This book enabled me to identify marks for Czech

glass, pottery, perfumes, jewelry, etc. The book was like a dictionary of glass pictures and information. I carried it in the car anywhere that we went so that I could learn more and could use it if I found something in an antique mall.

It became a little painful for me when Waymond would find something that I had missed, but he became very supportive to me and encouraged me to continue collecting. From that day, we have collected pieces throughout the United States on our travels.

It has been a pleasure to collect something so beautiful and helped me to encourage others who might become collectors. We have found many different kinds, designs, and patterns of Czech glass etc. and display it in our home in glass cases. We have never tired of the collection. We belong to CCA (Czech Collectors Association) and attend conventions in other states every year and never cease to learn or see something we have never seen before. I have never stopped looking but I am more selective at this stage.

We have displayed our collection at Czech Festivals in Caldwell, Victoria, and Houston and when I became President of the Czech Heritage Society of Texas, I did presentations at all the 15 chapters mainly to introduce myself to the members and also to teach others about the beautiful Czech pottery and glass.

We have put Czech glass in the Dime Box Museum, TCHCC in La Grange and I will donate some to the SPJST Museum in Temple. My goal is to inform as many people as I can about the beautiful Czech Glass and Pottery that was made from 1918-1938. How can we as Czechs not acknowledge the creativity of our ancestors?



Image adapted from google of Kunovice in the Czech Republic

CEFT DIRECTOR IN DELEGATION TO CZECH REPUBLIC

Reported by: Margaret Klecka, CEFT Board of Director

CEFT Director and long-time member, Clarice Marik Snokhous, joined a delegation from the City of West in May of 2016 on an annual visit to West's Sister City of Kunovice, CR. She was joined by West residents Mildred Dokupil, Candace and Will Kapavik, and Marissa, Greyson, and Will David Kapavik.

In September of 2015, the Sister City alliance was established during a visit to West by Kunovice Mayor Ivana Majickova who signed the agreement with West Mayor Tommy Muska on the grounds of the West City Hall.

In May, the West delegation traveled to the Czech Republic to participate in a number of events to include the festival in Kunovice. See the full report in The West News, June 23, 2016.

During a reception in Kunovice, the West Delegation enjoyed the Ride of the Kings which is presented every other year in the Czech Republic.

Pictures of a portion of the Czech Glass Collection that has been collected by Jean Blaha Davis.

Connect with CEFT Online Today!

Did you know that CEFT not only has a website, but is also on Facebook! Please look us up for upcoming events, history, programs, articles, past newsletter editions, and much more to come!

CEFT Website:

<http://www.ceft.us/>

Website Master: John Sefcik,
jgsefcik@sbcglobal.net

CEFT Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CEFT-Czech-Educational-Foundation-of-Texas-499171830264479/>

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CEFT Board of Directors at the November 21, 2015 Board Meeting in Denton, Texas.

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REMINDER

**2017 CEFT Dues
are now due. The
last printed page
of the Newsletter
contains the
Membership/
Memorial
Contribution Form.**

**Remember to
“Czech” out our
Website and
Facebook Page for
current, future
and past CEFT
happenings!**

The Czech Educational Foundation of Texas Membership/Memorial Contribution Form

Promote the study of Czech language and culture in Texas institutions of higher learning
by joining the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas.

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___ \$25 Individual (year) ___ \$35 Individual with Spouse (year) ___ \$1000 Lifetime (one time)

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Please make my gift in () Memory () Honor of: _____

Would you like your memorial/donation earmarked for a specific endowment?

- No
- Chair in Czech Studies at University of Texas
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Send Acknowledgment to:

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